

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An installation for processing flat objects (10) conveyed consecutively in a conveying direction, said installation comprising:
 - a processing drum (1) being driven in rotation around an essentially horizontal axis (T) and comprising, arranged at a drum periphery, regularly alternating support elements (2) and tool elements (3) that extend axially and whose radial position is adjustable,
 - a supply means for conveying the objects to an entry point (A) at the drum periphery,
 - a removal means for conveying the objects away from an exit point (B) at the drum periphery, and
 - a pressing belt (4) running from a first deflection roller (50) to the entry point, and on the periphery of the processing drum to the exit point and to a second deflection roller (5),
- wherein a pressing belt entry section between the first deflection roller and the entry point constitutes a last part of the supply means by the first deflection roller being arranged at a distance from the drum periphery and adjoining a further part of

the supply means and by the pressing belt entry section being arranged to be capable to support and convey the objects to the entry point, and

wherein the entry point (A) is situated in a lower area of the processing drum, and the exit point (B) is situated in an upper area of the periphery of the processing drum (1), the pressing belt (4) forms the last part of the supply means, a further belt (43) is arranged to run between the periphery of the processing drum (1) and the pressing belt (4) and to run on the periphery of the processing drum (1) between the entry point (A) and the exit point (B), and wherein the further belt (43) is arranged, by way of another first deflection roller (44), after the exit point to form a first part of the removal means.

2. – 5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The installation according to claim 4¹, wherein the further belt (43) consists of a plurality of pitched parallel closed loop strings.

7. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the support elements (2) and the tool elements (3) are interconnected with a control means such that, by activating the control means, all support elements (2) and/or all tool elements (3) are simultaneously displaced radially.

8. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the support elements (2) have an axial extension and comprise a variable width at right angles to their axial extension.

9. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein, for differing processes, the tool elements (3) are exchangeable.

10. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the installation also includes further supply means (11, 12) to supply a web of an auxiliary material such that the auxiliary material and the objects move along the drum periphery together.

11. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 10, wherein the tool elements (3) are equipped to at least partly separate the auxiliary material between the objects.

12. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 10, wherein the auxiliary material is a packing material (20) and the further supply means (11, 12) are designed such that the packing material (20) travels on both sides of the objects (10) on the processing drum (1).

13. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 12, wherein the packing material (20) is a weldable packaging foil and that the tool elements (3) comprise welding means.

14. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 13, wherein the tool elements (3) comprise welding wires extending in the direction of an axis of the processing drum (1), said welding wires protrude from the drum periphery

defined by the support elements (2) and are essentially continuously heated and co-operate with a Teflon-coating on the pressing belt (4).

15. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 1, wherein the installation is configured for packing printed products or small groups of printed products.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 11, wherein the auxiliary material is a packing material (20) and the further supply means (11, 12) are designed such that the packing material (20) travels on both sides of the objects (10) on the processing drum (1).

18. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 17, wherein the packing material (20) is a weldable packaging foil and that the tool elements (3) comprise welding means.

19. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 18, wherein the tool elements (3) comprise welding wires extending in the direction of an axis of the processing drum (1), said welding wires protrude from the drum periphery defined by the support elements (2) and are essentially continuously heated and co-operate with a Teflon-coating on the pressing belt (4).

20. (Currently Amended) An installation for processing flat objects (10) conveyed consecutively in a conveying direction, said installation comprising:

a processing drum (1) being driven in rotation around an essentially horizontal axis (T) and comprising, arranged at a drum periphery, regularly alternating support elements (2) and tool elements (3) that extend axially and whose radial position is adjustable,

a supply means for conveying the objects to an entry point (A) at the drum periphery,

a removal means for conveying the objects away from an exit point (B) at the drum periphery, and

a pressing belt (4) running from a first deflection roller (50) to the entry point, and on the periphery of the processing drum to the exit point and to a second deflection roller,

wherein a pressing belt exit section between the exit point and the second deflection roller constitutes a first part of the removal means by the second deflection roller being arranged at a distance from the drum periphery and adjoining a further part of the removal means and by the pressing belt exit section being arranged to be capable to support and convey the objects away from the exit point, and

wherein the entry point (A) is arranged in an upper area of the processing drum, and the exit point (B) in a lower area of the periphery of the processing drum (1), the pressing belt (4) forms the first part of the removal means, a further belt (43) is arranged to run between the periphery of the processing drum (1) and the pressing belt (4) and to run on the periphery of the processing drum (1) between the entry point (A) and the exit point (B), and wherein the further belt (43) is arranged, by

way of another last deflection roller (44), before the entry point to form the last part of the supply means.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 20, wherein the further belt (43) consists of a plurality of pitched parallel closed loop strings.

23. (Currently Amended) The installation according to claim ~~24~~20, wherein the support elements (2) and the tool elements (3) are interconnected with a control means such that, by activating the control means, all support elements (2) and/or all tool elements (3) are simultaneously displaced radially.

24. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 20, wherein the support elements (2) have an axial extension and comprise a variable width at right angles to their axial extension.

25. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 20, wherein, for differing processes, the tool elements (3) are exchangeable.

26. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 20, wherein the installation also includes further supply means (11, 12) to supply a web of an auxiliary material such that the auxiliary material and the objects move along the drum periphery together.

27. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 26, wherein the tool elements (3) are equipped to at least partly separate the auxiliary material between the objects.

28. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 26, wherein the auxiliary material is a packing material (20) and the further supply means (11, 12) are designed such that the packing material (20) travels on both sides of the objects (10) on the processing drum (1).

29. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 28, wherein the packing material (20) is a weldable packaging foil and that the tool elements (3) comprise welding means.

30. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 29, wherein the tool elements (3) comprise welding wires extending in the direction of an axis of the processing drum (1), said welding wires protrude from the drum periphery defined by the support elements (2) and are essentially continuously heated and co-operate with a Teflon-coating on the pressing belt (4).

31. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 20, wherein the installation is configured for packing printed products or small groups of printed products.

32. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 27, wherein the auxiliary material is a packing material (20) and the further supply means (11, 12)

are designed such that the packing material (20) travels on both sides of the objects (10) on the processing drum (1).

33. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 32, wherein the packing material (20) is a weldable packaging foil and that the tool elements (3) comprise welding means.

34. (Previously Presented) The installation according to claim 33, wherein the tool elements (3) comprise welding wires extending in the direction of an axis of the processing drum (1), said welding wires protrude from the drum periphery defined by the support elements (2) and are essentially continuously heated and cooperate with a Teflon-coating on the pressing belt (4).

35. – 46. (Cancelled)